



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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STATEMENT BY CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-*Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Democratic Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee made the following statement during the energy bill mark-up:*

“Chairman Barton and Ranking Member Dingell, thank you for holding this mark-up today. I believe that America needs a reliable, secure, dependable, energy policy that is as good for our health as it is our economy and environment.

“I believe Americans deserve an honest debate about gas prices and electricity reliability. The legislation before us today does nothing to bring down the cost of gas – which is \$2.60 a gallon in my district, nothing to protect our public health or our environment, and nothing to ensure energy independence.

“It will increase our dependency on oil by furthering the notion that we can just drill our way out of dependency. It rewards polluters by giving them a liability shield and restricts the ability of the EPA to seek cleanup monies from them. And it limits the ability of our states to protect our citizens from liquefied natural gas, refineries and leaking underground storage tanks.

“That is why I will not support this legislation in its current form. I am especially disappointed that this legislation was not the subject of more discussion. Despite a request from all Democrats on the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, language in Title 15 Subtitle B on Leaking Underground Storage Tanks was not considered before today.

“There are 136,000 tanks currently leaking across this country, more than 100 in my district. The EPA estimates that over the next 10 years more than 120,000 more tanks will be leaking.

“Apparently, those who supported keeping this language in this bill believe that taxpayers should be responsible for contamination from leaking undergrounds storage tanks. They must not be concerned that additional, common sense steps could be taken to prevent leaks, and are supportive of stripping states’ funding if they decide to proactively prevent leaks.

“I am also concerned about provisions in Title III - hydraulic fracturing and the Refinery Revitalization Act - which will do nothing to ensure energy or gas reliability but do

everything to threaten our water supplies, and endanger the health and wellbeing of our communities.

“I believe that energy security, jobs and a health workplace and family can co-exist. But this bill tries to make us choose between them. And that is a choice I refuse to make.

“Mr. Chairman, this legislation provides a false sense of security for our nation and does a major disservice to our constituents who depend on us to provide them with real policy and an honest debate.

“I hope that some day we can have a real discussion, a real debate, and a real energy policy that serves all Americans, not just corporate America.”

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